Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.

at Bloomfield, Essex County, N. J.

Office: 302 Glenwood Avenue

Subscription, $2.00 per year, in advance.

Six months, $1.00; Three months, 50c.

Entered at the Post-office at Bloomfield as second-class matter.

THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1903.

Discounts Discontinued.

The Town Council on Monday night adopted a recommendation made by Chairman Conlan of the Finance Committee to discontinue the discounts heretofore allowed for the prompt payment of taxes. It has been the custom hitherto to allow two per cent. discount on taxes paid before November 1, and one per cent. between that date and December 1, and one-half of one per cent. between December 1 and December 20. The object in allowing the above quoted discounts was to secure the prompt payment of taxes and avoid interest charges paid on money borrowed in anticipation of taxes. The fiscal year begins April 1, and as the taxes are not due until December, it has always been the custom to borrow money for current expenses by the issue of town notes.

The reason set forth by the Finance Committee for the abolishment of discounts was that it caused a loss of receipts to the town of between $1,500 and $2,000 annually. In other years an allowance has always been made for discounts in the make up of the financial budget for the year, but this year the government was confronted with the perplexing problem of an excessively high tax rate, and to make the usual allowance for discounts would have necessitated a still higher rate, and consequently rather than increase the rate and allow the discounts, it was decided to abolish the discounts and keep the rate down.

The new rule will doubtless subject the town officials to considerable criticism for the first year of its operation, but it is the same policy that is in vogue in many other municipalities.

Councilman Moore favored the allowance of a discount of one-half of one per cent. as an encouragement to prompt taxpaying.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was adopted without a dissenting vote. The Finance Committee submitted the monthly financial statement of Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne for the month of August.

Blames Glen Ridge.

The Montclair people have for some time past been bringing pressure to bear upon the officials of Glen Ridge with a view to getting a five cent fair from Montclair to Newark. At the meeting of the Montclair Council Monday night Councilman Crawford of the Franchise Committee reported having seen President McCarter of the Public Service Corporation in relation to better trolley facilities for Montclair and said that Mr. McCarter had admitted that the service was not what it should be. It was said that when the new car-house in Montclair is completed and the pipe line laid the system would be much improved.

As to a five-cent fare, it was stated that Mr. McCarter has said that when Glen Ridge was ready to give up the $1,000-a-year franchise bonus Montclair would have a five-cent fare. When Glen Ridge granted the North Jersey Street Railway Company a franchise to run through the borough it exacted an annual payment of $1,000 from the company for the privilege.

Watsessing Park.

Watsessing Park came in for a share of attention at the annual meeting of the Citizens' Union in East Orange Monday night. Secretary Alden Freeman, in outlining the work of the union for the year, said: "The Park Committee has had two hearings before the County Park Commission, urging the improvement of the parkways in East Orange, on which it based its appeal for the $1,000,000 voted at the election last fall, and also asked for the improvement of Elmwood Park as a playground and the improvement of Watsessing Park and its enlargement as a continuous playground and promenade connecting the Watsessing School in Bloomfield with the Franklin School in the First Ward.

"This plan of your committee was approved by the Bloomfield Board of Trade at its meeting on Thursday, and it was decided, if possible, to purchase that portion of the property lying in Bloomfield and donate it to the park commission.

Boundary Dispute Settled.

The boundary line between this town and Belleville, which has been in dispute for several years past, and has been a source of more or less vexation to the tax office, was disposed of Monday night when Councilman Chabot, Chairman of the Maps and Surveys Committee, made a motion that was carried to adopt the line as established by Township Engineer Francisco of Belleville, and which survey was concurred in by Engineer Olmsted of this town.

A letter from Tax Collector Frank Foster to the Council relative to the disputed boundary line was read by the clerk. Mr. Foster stated that some of the property-owners along the boundary line had paid their taxes in this town, and the Belleville officials claiming the property as Belleville territory had advertised these same properties for sale for unpaid taxes. In justice to these property-owners, and to avoid confusion in the tax duplicate, Mr. Foster requested that some action be taken towards a definite establishment of the boundary line.

Councilman Moore opposed the adoption of Councilman Chabot's motion; not that he doubted the correctness of Engineer Francisco's work, but he did not think it good business policy to adopt that survey without a verification of it on the part of some one employed by the town. If in the future any question arose the records would show that the Council simply took their neighbor's word for it that the line was correctly surveyed.

Mr. Chabot said that he had been informed that it would cost between five and six hundred dollars to have the line surveyed and mapped, and the possibility of any change from Mr. Francisco's survey was so slight that it was almost useless to expend that sum on the work.

Mr. Moore asked for a roll call of the members. When the vote was taken Messrs. Farrand, Walker and Chabot voted aye, and Messrs. Moore and Conlan nay.

Revocation Ordinance Withdrawn.

The Montclair Town Council on Monday night withdrew the ordinance revoking the franchise of the Montclair and Bloomfield Telephone Company. It had been alleged that since the company's plant in Montclair was burned out some time ago it had done no business in the town and furthermore that it was behind in its taxes. A long communication from the company was read. This was to the effect that it had paid its back taxes; that it was extending its system; that many repairs had been made, and that there was no reason, in view of these facts, why the ordinance to revoke the franchise should not be withdrawn.

To Avoid Grade Crossing.

The dangerous condition of the Benson street crossing of the New York and Greenwood Lake Railway in Glen Ridge, where two persons were killed a few weeks ago, was brought to the attention of the Glen Ridge Borough Council Monday night. Mayor Brewer and Councilman White were appointed a committee to confer with the Erie officials with a view of doing away with the crossing. The plan, as suggested, is to continue Wildwood terrace southerly 150 feet and pass under the railroad tracks, coming out at Benson street. Since the accident the railroad company has placed a flagman at the crossing.

Inauguration Ceremony.

The Rev. Arnold W. Fismer, Ph. D., will be inaugurated Professor of Ethics and New Testament Exegesis in the German Theological Seminary Monday evening, September 21. The exercises will take place in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The following programme has been arranged:

Duet, Prayer — Ch. Gounod
Rev. H. C. Grühnert
Mr. Fred Egner
Scripture, — Rev. Prof. C. Hook
Prayer, — Rev. Prof. H. J. Weber
Vocal Solo, Selection — Mr. M. Boubaud
Charge to Prof. Arnold W. Fismer,
By the President of the Board of Directors,
Rev. D. R. Fraser, D. D.
Inaugural Address, "Correlation of Ethics and Religion," — Prof. A. W. Fismer
Prayer, — Rev. I. B. Hopwood, D.D.
Benediction, — Rev. Julius H. Wolff

Inter-State Fair.

Every detail for the opening of the Inter-State Fair, Monday, September 28, at Trenton, N. J., has been completed by Secretary Mahlon R. Margerum. Entries in every department indicate a class of exhibits which will go to make the coming exhibition the greatest one of the sixteen given by the association.

There will be many new features this year, and such an amount of money has been spent to secure first-class attractions that everything will be of a genteel and superior character.

Golf at Glen Ridge.

A match between the Montclair and Glen Ridge Golf Clubs was played Saturday afternoon with this result:

MONTCLAIR.		GLEN RIDGE.	
H. Wilcox	6	C. Place	0
Boureum	0	Freeman	4
P. Wilcox	2	H. D. Smith	0
T. Russell	0	R. Mitchell	0
C. Brown	2	R. N. Sheffey	0
J. S. Plimpton	3	R. Thomson	0
Staats	2	H. S. Sheffey	0
Total	15	Total	4

On the Montclair links Saturday morning the second round was played in the September cup contest. F. S. Hyatt beat Paul Wilcox 1 up; Russell Allen won from Paul Harrison by default, and H. Wilcox won from I. T. Reed by default.

Fire Houses.

Councilman Herbert C. Farrand, Chairman of the Fire Committee, submitted his report on fire houses at the Town Council meeting Monday night. The report was in writing and embodied the same recommendations made by Mr. Farrand at a previous meeting of the Council; namely, the purchase of property in Washington street for a fire house and police station, the purchase of Excelsior Hose House in the Second Ward, and of property in Watsessing for a fire house, also the erection of a fire house in the Montgomery district, and the purchase of the Nash property.

Councilman Moore asked that action on the report be delayed until the next meeting on account of the absence of Councilman Harrison. It was important, Mr. Moore said, that all members of the Council be present when the report was discussed and acted upon.

Mr. Farrand agreed to let the discussion of the report go over one week. But in justice to the firemen he asked that speedy action be taken with respect to the fire houses.

A letter from Phœnix Hose Company was read setting forth the deplorable condition of that company's headquarters, and Mr. Farrand proposed that all the members of the Council get together on Saturday afternoon, the 19th inst., and make a personal inspection of the fire houses. This was agreed to.

Councilman Walker asked permission of the chairman to address the Council on one feature of the fire house matter that he would like to have the Fire Committee investigate before any action was taken on the recommendations submitted to the Council. Mr. Walker's request was granted, and he said that the question he wanted to ask was if it was not possible to provide necessary headquarters for the firemen without resorting to bonding the town?

Mr. Walker favored putting the present headquarters of the fire companies in such condition as to make them both convenient and comfortable. He believed that public sentiment was against any increase in the present indebtedness of the town. Mr. Walker submitted a letter from A. R. Brewer, owner of the Essex Truck house property, in which Mr. Brewer expressed a willingness to make any improvements in that building that the Council or the firemen desired, or he would replace it with a two-story or three-story brick building and make it suitable for fire purposes and town offices, or any other municipal purposes desired. Mr. Walker also stated that in conversation with R. N. Dodd he had learned that Mr. Dodd's building would again be occupied shortly as a livery stable, and horses would be provided for the fire wagons and truck.

Mr. Walker suggested that the Fire Committee confer with Mr. Brewer and Mr. Dodd, and find out what terms could be made for continued occupancy of the present buildings, and what it would cost to make changes and repairs.

Mr. Farrand stated that he was in receipt of a number of letters in relation to fire matters which he would present when the subject was before the Council for action.

The Phillipsburg Method.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Permit me through the CITIZEN to call the attention of the town officials and taxpayers of this town to the Phillipsburg method of dealing with a case which in its main features resembles our Linden avenue muddle:

"PHILLIPSBURG, Sept. 16, 1903.

"The Town Council Tuesday night, at an adjourned session, passed resolutions demanding that Adam Martin, the contractor, who built the Front street sewer, return to the town treasurer an amount something over $900 which he is charged with receiving for work it is alleged was never done. If the money is not paid back within five days the town attorney is directed to institute legal proceedings to recover it.

"Another resolution censured Town Surveyor James E. Smith and demanded his resignation. Final action on this resolution was deferred until the next meeting of council, to give Smith an opportunity of preparing a defence.

"This action of council was the outcome of a scandal that has stirred up much indignation and popular feeling. The sewer committee, at a recent meeting of the Council, presented a report from Professor Folwell of Lafayette College showing that Martin had drawn over $900 too much on a contract amounting to a little over $1,600."

JOHN SCHWAB.

Horse Killed.

George Gressing, a Cedar Grove farmer, was on his way to Newark Thursday night when his vehicle was struck by a Bloomfield avenue trolley car in Glen Ridge. The horse driven by Gressing was killed in the accident.

Patents Issued.

Patents issued to Jerseymen and reported for the CITIZEN by Drake & Co., solicitors of patents, corner Broad and Market Streets, Newark, N. J.:

Button-hole machine, E. B. Allen, Elizabeth; plumber's blast furnace, Otto Bernz, Newark; dentist's tool, E. Betts, Newark; ball cock for valves, J. Cable, Montclair; safety gas burner, Ernest A. D'Aquila, Newark; electric air pump, C. A. Deh, Newark; automatic locomotive controlling device, C. Hansel, Westfield; Langer for pipes, W. F. Irish, East Orange; interchangeable sound amplifying means for sound reproducing or talking machines, Albert S. Marten, East Orange; telephone alarm system, John D. Peachey, East Orange; piston valve, C. Reeves, Trenton; governor, H. C. Sergeant, Westfield; flexible tubular covering, J. Stanisy, Newark; detonating toy, (2 patents), Carl E. Wenzel, Newark.

Church Notes.

The Rev. Dr. C. S. Woodruff and the Rev. P. G. Blight were present Tuesday morning at the funeral service over the remains of the Rev. Dr. R. Van Horn, held in the Roseville M. E. Church. Dr. Van Horn was one of the oldest members of the Newark Methodist Conference, and was at one time Presiding Elder of the Newark district.

Arrangements are being made for the consecration of Ascension Chapel as soon as Bishop-elect Lines is installed as bishop of the diocese.

Rally Day in the First Baptist Church Sunday-school will be held on Sunday, September 27, when the Sunday-school room, which has been enlarged and redecorated, will be occupied for the first time since its improvement. Special general exercises will be held on this occasion.

The annual banquet of the Baraca Class of the First Baptist Church Sunday-school will be held on Monday evening, September 28.

The Rev. George A. Paull has returned from his vacation trip and will preach in the Westminster Presbyterian Church to-morrow.

The committee on pulpit supply of the First Baptist Church has arranged for services in the church during October. The committee has received several applications from ministers who want to succeed Rev. Charles A. Cook.

Park M. E. Church will observe Sunday as an at Home Day. It is expected that every member of the church and congregation who can possibly attend will do so and former members will come back to renew old associations. Dr. C. S. Woodruff, the pastor, will preach special sermons at each service.

"Why and How We Should Bear Witness for Christ" was the subject of discussion at Tuesday night's meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society in the First Baptist Church. Edward T. Van Vliet acted as leader.

The Burden Bearer's Circle of the King's Daughters' Society of the First Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. S. C. Hamilton last night.

Property-Owners Excited.

There is considerable excitement in the vicinity of Berkeley School over the proposition of a property-owner whose premises adjoin the school grounds to erect a three-story tenement house in the rear of his dwelling that fronts on Berkeley place. Some of the finest residential property in this town fronts on Berkeley place and it is claimed that the proposed tenement barracks will have a depreciating effect on all surrounding property.

The owner of the property on which it is proposed to erect the three-story rear tenement is an Italian and he will doubtless fill the house with several families of that nationality. The Board of Health has been appealed to, to exercise its powers to block the proposed building project. It is claimed that the Board can forbid the erection of what is known as rear tenement houses.

Violin and Piano Instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence. For terms address William J. Maier, No. 385 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, N. J. —*Adv.*

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NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.